



# FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

Volume XXXIII Issue 4

## MAKING A REAL SPLASH

### SPRING SWIMWEAR 2007

#### PART I

This season while attending the Sunglass Swim Shows Miami Beach presented by Lycra and the Trade Show at the Miami Convention Center, we came across a wonderful mix of swimwear resources, both new and old. Among our favorites was GIDEON OBERSON's presentation at the Raleigh Hotel and, at the Miami Convention Center, rookie swimwear designer

ANGEL FUMAGALI, who was showing her eponymous "Angel" swimwear line to a crowd of buyers and press.

#### ANGEL FUMAGALI

Designer Angel Fumagali's new Angel line was the first booth we visited at the Miami Convention Center's spring 2007 swim expo. What's best about Angel is her concept of working with the body you have, rather than pining for

*continued on page 2*



## IT'S IN THE DETAILS

### RTW RESORT 2007

That old chestnut, God is in the details certainly holds true for Resort '07 RTW. One has to get up close to appreciate the subtle touches that are a constant thread running through most collections. As far as the trends go, what was noteworthy for fall/holiday is still viable for resort. Bubble skirts, Empire silhouettes, cropped jackets and pants, plus layering, wrapping and textural mixes, such as deli-

cate crocheted pieces playing off airy woven fabrics, serve to convey a spirit of sophisticated ease and femininity.

CYNTHIA STEFFE has produced a charming collection that's light-hearted and breezy. There's an air of refreshing naiveté in her polka dotted strapless dress detailed with satin ruching at the empire waist hem. It's shown with one of Steffe's signature cotton eyelet and pointelle cardigans. A shrunken cardigan featuring pretty jewel snap

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a Victoria's Secret model shape and buying an ill-fitting suit. She has been conducting extensive research using Lycra to be able to offer her "more self-conscious US consumer" what she believes is her "universally flattering fit". States Angel: "I want women to look both comfortable and sexy in a bathing suit." At time of publication, her bestseller is the "Brazilian Angel Export" a model that shows the curve of the side of the derriere, while also giving coverage similar to the more conservative fuller bottoms found at Jantzen and J. Crew. Angel provided us with a working glossary of some of these popular swim cuts.

**Brazilian Cut:** covers 1/3 of your derriere and looks best on a size 4 or smaller. Although it is small, with no extra material, it's comfortable and wearable.

**Athletic Fit Bottom:** Although Angel has worked with women such as Miss Universe on her competition bikini, she got her start working with fitness buffs, including beach volleyball players who are extremely conscious of fit, support and coverage as they engage in rigorous exercise on the courts. When designing for her athletic clientele, Angel cuts the bikini bottoms a little higher for more support and coverage.

**Convertible Bra Tops:** In regard to the bra portion of her bikinis, Angel's bras are designed to push the bust together (especially useful for a B cup and larger) and, as they are convertible, to give the added benefit of less of a tan line.

Her bestselling bikini is the ruched bikini top over a bottom with an abbreviated skirt in a black and white floral that is also reversible (the solid side has a bigger scoop

than the floral side). In her collection, we also found one of the best fitting bikinis — a black halter string top and scoop bottom style with a camel leather and stainless steel rectangular buckle on each side. Unlike most string bikinis, this precision fit bottom offers ample bottom coverage. Angel may be a newcomer, but her attention to a precision fit and her passion for the business make her one to watch.

## CHRISTINA AMERICA

Established in 1952, CHRISTINA AMERICA is a Montréal-based swimwear manufacturer whose stated mission is "to market outstanding products, to sustain the growth of its distribution network, and to extend its product line to reach more women year after year." This is achieved by employing superior quality fabrics, often in stylish and unique prints, and their ever-increasing outreach to women of all sizes, ages and body structures. In Canada alone, their swimsuits are sold in more than 1500 stores including major retailers, such as Simon's, The Bay, Bikini Village, San Francisco and Sears. In the United States, among the many lines manufactured by the company are Gottex, Gideon Oberson, XOXO, Sketchers Beach, and the Christina Full Figure collection. These are distributed at Victoria's Secret, Lord and Taylor, Nordstrom, The Beach House, Everything but Water, J.C. Penny, and many other major retailers. Internationally, the Christina brands are sold through Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Oceania. In addition, Christina produces the revolutionary Body Wrap, which is a complete line of seamless shape wear sold in 45 countries around the world.

Christina swimsuits, regardless of

their brand name, are known for their perfect fit, soft fabrics, unique and colorful prints, as well as a feel of European elegance and classic beauty. Additionally, they offer special features, such as contour bras, waist and hip minimizer cuts, bust enhancers, tummy-tamer fabrics, and long torso cuts. These features make them an ideal choice for full-figured woman all the way up to a D-DD cup, as well as maternity and post-mastectomy designs.

The Christina Separates collection has a wide range of tops (halters, tankinis, under wire bras) and bottoms available in nearly every design. The same prints and fabrics used in the Christina Contemporary/Missy Collection and Separates Collection, with similar mix-and-match possibilities, are used for the full-figured woman too. Most styles are offered in sizes 18W to 24W or 16W to 22W. Just as in the Christina regular line, the full-figured customers can also choose from different effects (bust enhancer, waist or hip minimizer) and three different types of coverage to find the swimsuit that fits them the best.

To further increase the opportunity for all women to look their best in a suit, there is the FantaSizer Collection. Made from a specially designed slimming power fabric, the suits offer control and comfort along with a new slimmer silhouette. The slimmer power fabric, used to manufacture FantaSizer products, is unique on the market and comprises 52% spandex and 48% nylon, with a matte finish. Each swimsuit is made entirely of the power tricot fabric and has confection details such as seams, shirring or princess lines for added room and comfort in the breast area. The bottoms are fully lined on the surface area, and do not have elastic at the waistline in or



# A GLANCE AT VINTAGE

## TREASURE TROVES

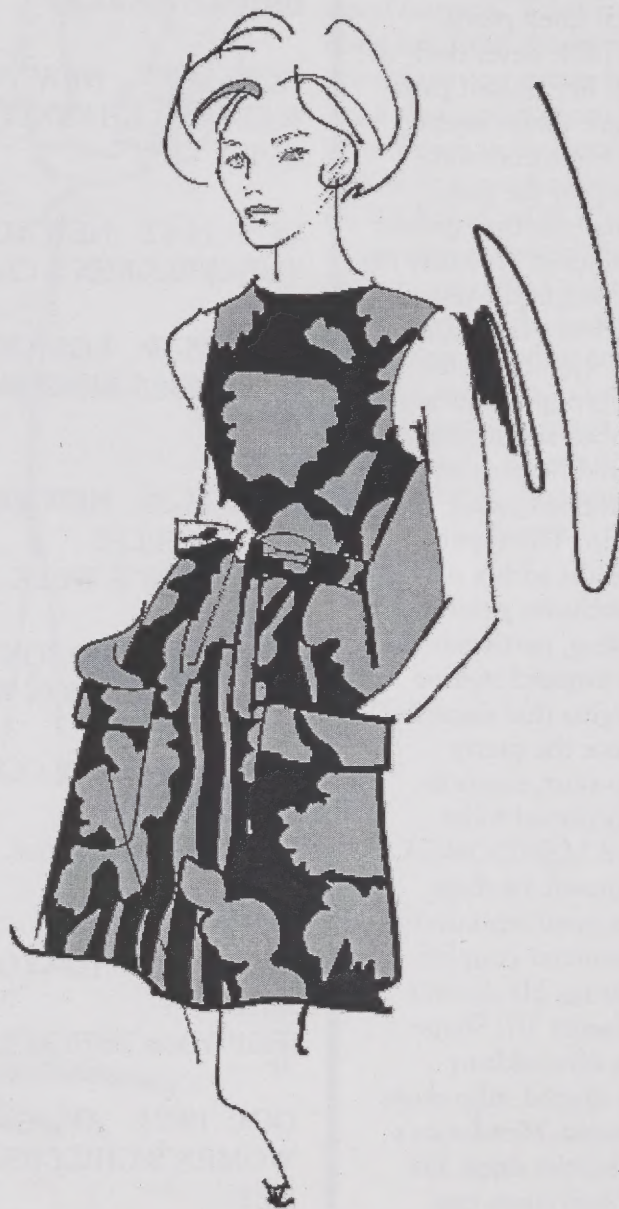
To readers of FI, it is clear as to why we continue to report on the vintage fashion scene; it's no secret that designers, both established and up and coming, continually troll the couture auctions held twice yearly at Doyle Galleries, as well as attend the Manhattan Vintage Clothing Shows held at the Metropolitan Pavilion. Both venues are important sources for the fashion pro and savvy consumer determined to make an individual statement.

Although the vast majority of vintage clothing and accessories is focused on the '50s through '70s decades, trendsetters and those who keep their eyes on the pulse of fashion are also embracing the not so distant '80s. Influences from that decade can already be seen on the runways, from voluminous sleeves and leggings, to structured or built up shoulders. In essence, beautifully constructed vintage clothes offer the wearer a chance to be unique.

### ACCESSORY TREASURES AT MANHATTAN VINTAGE

Noteworthy are the bold Mexican silver bracelets from the '60s, and the black suede gloves with slashed wrist cuffs that are lined in pink leather for the modern day renaissance women at METROPOLIS. Black and white check patent short

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Geoffrey Beene



"buttons" is slipped over another eyelet/pointelle dress. Subtle sequins decorate the hem of a vanilla colored jersey shirt. Steffe shows this with a silk cascade, empire waist camisole, in a delicious peach blossom print, for a look of controlled volume. Taking the edge off black is a charming georgette crochet bib blouse dotted in black/white atop stretch linen cuffed capris, and a "suit" comprised of an eyelet ribbon tied cropped jacket and skinny stretch linen pants. REBECCA TAYLOR never deviates very far from her chosen path. The collections are always steeped in romance and femininity with a hint of nostalgia for the past. However, this time, the unexpected color palette composed primarily of black, gray, rust, burgundy, yellow, teal and cream offers a new dose of sophistication. Highlights for Resort include a group of mix and match beige slubbed silk separates. Twelve tiny covered buttons accent a shapely, cropped jacket worn over matching flared pants. A silk tie at the waist adds a nice touch. Taylor's exclusive prints are always worth noting, particularly the art nouveau inspired stylized floral that highlights this season's collection. We love the pretty dresses, the wrap skirt, camisole and newly proportioned fuller shorts. ARTHUR MENDONCA's collections are known for their luxurious fabrics, total femininity, and striking silhouettes coupled with expert tailoring. He doesn't disappoint for Resort '07. Shape defining dresses, oh-so-skinny pants and curvy draped tulip skirts provide the glamour. Mendonca's zip-front, white bustier dress, his slinky (think Chloe) jersey egg-shaped shift with beaded yoke, and

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## INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

OCT. 12-15 MIAMI  
FLORIDA FASHION FOCUS  
(Women s RTW/Accessories)

OCT. 13-14 NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN VINTAGE

OCT. 14-17 NEW YORK  
BRIDAL MARKET

OCT. 14-17 NEW YORK  
WEDDING CHANNEL COUTURE

OCT. 15-17 NEW YORK  
THE CHILDREN'S CLUB

OCT. 15-19 LOS ANGELES  
MERCEDES-BENZ FASHION WEEK

OCT. 16-20 NEW YORK &  
LOS ANGELES  
FRAGRANCE WEEK

OCT. 16-21 TORONTO  
L'OREAL FASHION WEEK

OCT. 17-19 BOLOGNA  
LINEAPELLE  
(Leathers, Accessories, Components)

OCT. 17-19 TOKYO  
JITAC  
(Fall/Winter 2007/2008 Fabrics)

OCT. 19-23 ATLANTA  
WOMEN'S/CHILDREN'S MARKET

OCT. 20-23 ATLANTA  
AMERICASMART PREMIER  
(Juried Women s/Men s Fashions)

OCT. 20-23 LOS ANGELES  
DESIGNERS & AGENTS  
(Spring RTW/Accessories)

OCT. 20-23 LOS ANGELES  
BRIGHT  
(Women s RTW)

OCT. 20-23 LOS ANGELES  
INTERSECTION  
(Spring 2007 RTW/Accessories)

OCT. 20-24 LOS ANGELES  
WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S  
MARKET

OCT. 20-24 LOS ANGELES  
GIFT & HOME MARKET

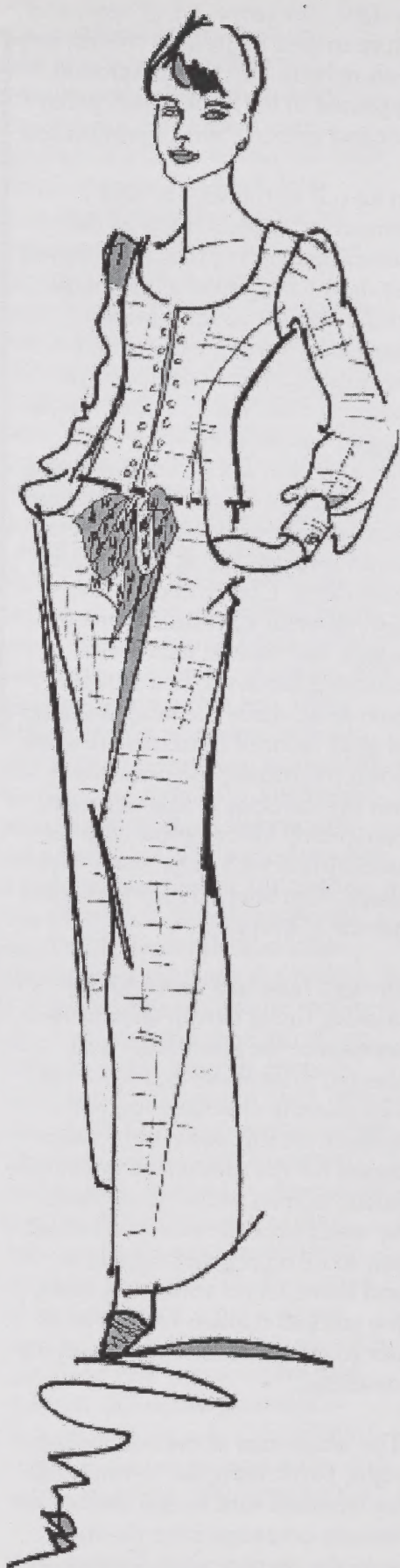
OCT. 22-23 LOS ANGELES  
GLOW  
(Lifestyle)

OCT. 22-23 LOS ANGELES  
TRANSIT/THE L.A. SHOE  
SHOW

OCT. 23-NOV. 3 NEW YORK  
SUMMER/TRANSITION  
MARKET



shiny cotton trench with braided leather belt and crop sleeves are outstanding. The other sure-fire hit combines a buttery perforated lamb, puff sleeve crop jacket with a pleat front jersey tank and stretch cotton drainpipe trousers. For VERA WANG, Resort is about "experimentation with fabrics, shapes, weights and movements, musicality and modernity of dance, particularly ballet." Like Cynthia Steffe, Wang's color palette is also dramatic and "masculine." She builds her collection around shades of black, navy, khaki, gray and ivory, with accents of blush, maize, seafoam and white to offset the somber mood. Wang's theme is about layering and controlled fullness, with waffle textured organza, linen techno silk and even seersucker (forget everything you remember about this preppy fabric), which in Wang's deft hands is elevated to sophisticated new heights. Details include jewel embellishments, snakeskin, patent and rope belts, ruffles drawstrings and pleating. One of Wang's best looks, in a line filled with ideas, pairs a box pleated sleeveless top with a bubble skirt in gray/ivory/brown floral print silk organza. FI flipped over OSMAN YOUSEFZADA. This British based designer offers a lovely collection that strikes a clean, modern note with a color palette primarily limited to black, white, yellow and blue. Intricate folds and draping indicate a deft touch. Deceptively simple is a drop waist "cardigan" dress offered in silk georgette or chiffon that skims the body and fastens at the neckline with one looped button. Also striking (think vintage Balenciaga), Yousefzada's sculptural scoop neck dress in silk/cotton faille. Separates are also noteworthy, especially the cropped jacket and cigarette pants in black



CYNTHIA STEFFE

or white linen. There are lots of white, brown and black/white combinations at KENTH ANDERSSON. Clean silhouettes combine with bold leaf prints in this capsule Resort collection that's based on mix and match pieces. Upping the fashion quotient on a stunning white cotton coat is the irregular black striping at the sleeves and hem. Also crisp is a shaped white cotton jacket detailed with brown stitching and pearl inlaid brown wood buttons. What is Resort without a sundress? Andersson's full-skirted version comes in leaf print linen that's perfectly at home in Palm Beach or St. Bart's. For those in Resort's social swim there's GUSTAVO CADILE's collection of glam eveningwear. Showstoppers include a strapless pleated skirt, an embroidered silk organza cocktail confection belted in taffeta with a flower accent, a full skirted silk taffeta dress with sheer lace overlay bodice, and a gorgeous one-shoulder silk sheath, accented with a jeweled tulle flower.



der to avoid the cut-waistline effect. The FantaSizer Collection offers a great range of products with multiple styles, such as one-pieces, swim dresses, sarongs, two-piece tankinis and pareos, all designed to give women the best silhouettes with a trendy and sophisticated look.

For younger women, there is XOXO and the XOXO Collection that are targeted at two different consumers. However, both offer sexy, stylish looks for a young and modern market. XOXO presents pinks, greens and blacks as a palette, and girly-looking buckles and patterns, while focusing on comfortable swimsuits. These allow all girls to look their best and also to mix and match their favorite styles. The fashion-forward XOXO Collection offers superior materials and chic embellishments, with daring cuts, outstanding prints and sizes up to D-Cup in nearly every design. It features solids with trims, pinks, pretty pastels, ruffles, fruits, ribbons, and hearts, as well as girly hardware.

## GIDEON OBERSON

Marimeko daisies anyone? Mr. Oberson, a brilliant swimwear designer, gave a novel take on the daisy print that was omnipresent at the recent Sunglass Hut Shows Miami Beach presented by Lycra. The glam poppies/daisies on white maillots and cut out one-pieces looked great, as did the bikinis with poppy/daisy appliqués. The stripy group was equally fun, and those cap sleeved body suits in the aquamarine, orange and fuchsia wave print look just as good at the pool as they do for a round of shopping or lunch at the seaside. He also followed one of the trends from the RTW runways by incorporating black and white geometric

designs, one stripe, a bull's-eye, and more stripes. Many suits this season feature belts, and they frequently appeared in his black/white polka dot and striped shiny sequin pieces.

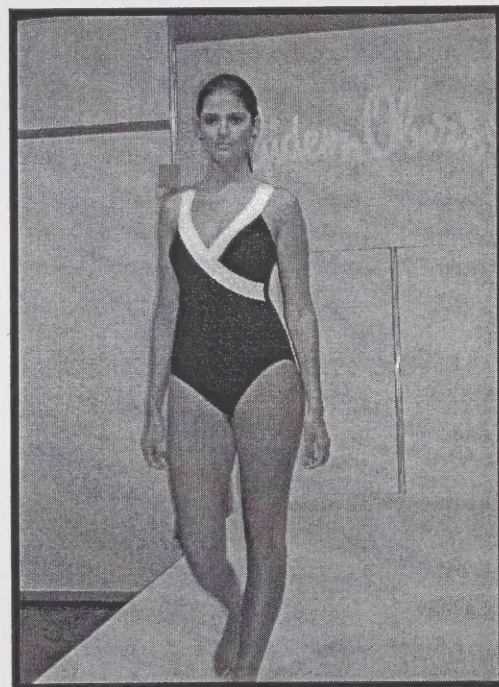
In an ode to the sea, he used numerous nautical knots in the decorative cording that accessorized his daring tangerine colored suits. In the English country garden segment — a white background embellished with wallpaper style prints in blue, red and olive — wide luggage brown belts, straw raffia hats and clear Lucite heels were the accessories of choice. The cover-ups were his take on fishermen's nets (in an olive green), as shrugs and wrap skirts. Classic Gideon Oberson followed: a horizontal green, orange and fuchsia halter with matching kerchiefs, tied around each wrist, made the models appear as giant colorful butterflies floating down the runway. Also a winner was the shocking orange segment, particularly his one-piece cutouts, accessorized with huge Lucite ball clasps, matching earrings and fish-net shrug wraps.

He used hose in a novel way, as mid-calf thong stirrup stilettos to accessorize the sheer black and cheetah print shoes and cover-ups. The chevron cheetah print halter-back cat suit was undoubtedly meant for the sexiest and most confident woman in the room. And, he wisely kept the jewelry minimal, just some huge gold hoops here and there, fabric armbands, and a few stacked wooden bangles so as not to take attention away from his creations.

The white suits at the end looked right, particularly the V-front mailot trimmed with brown shells. Our favorite cover-ups from the show were the oversize white flowers set on a sheer black background.

## TRENDS & INFLUENCES FROM THE MIAMI CONVENTION CENTER SWIM SHOW

- Tropical prints (with leafy prints in bright colors)
- Safari, a mixture of animal and jungle flavors
- Black and white trend represented by simple graphic prints and trendy jewelry
- Beach party influence, coconut embellishments
- Ethnic prints characterized by a strong Spanish influence with warm colors (pink, gold, yellow, orange); spicy and gold sparkle details
- Nautical influence, navy/white looks



GIDEON OBERSON



gloves have a '60s vibe at AUERBACH & MAFFIA. This dealer is also a good source for '50s scarves and pocket squares. KATY KANE has a fabulous natural straw cone hat from the '50s, trimmed with a black trompe l'oeil gloved hand wearing a pearl bracelet and holding a cigarette holder. EARTHLY DELIGHTS offers one-stop-shopping for vintage Gucci and Chanel handbags. One charmer from Gucci is a white patent top-zip bag with double bamboo handles and shoulder strap. We spotted gorgeous French Bakelite cuffs with Pierrot faces and a cute Bakelite Scottie dog pin at MARILYN HITCHCOCK. Oversize handbags are in style now and AMARCORD offers some terrific alternatives to the ubiquitous Balenciaga and Chloe bags. There are slouch leather everyday bags, structured "doctor's" bags and roomy hold-alls for weekends. Raid the '70s at TANUSHIA'S VINTAGE CLOSET where you will find pieced and patchwork snakeskin clutch bags in earth tones. Also trending now are platform and wedge shoes, and a varied selection from the '50s onward that can be found at VINTAGE HOLLYWOOD. Another source for one-of-a-kind shoes is SENTIMENTS BY KATHERINE KATHY. We found silver sandals, spotted cat boots and, so camp they're in, a pair of felt sandals with painted carved wood platform wedge soles. DIVINE FINDS has a '50s bamboo "birdcage" handbag and, the timeless Wasp staple, a Nantucket wicker basket, plus chic printed fabric train cases and hat-boxes from the '60s.

**DOYLE GALLERY STANDOUTS**  
At Doyle Gallery's latest cou-

ture auction (the next will be held in November), there was a treasure trove of designer clothing. Among the dazzlers were MAINBOCHER's vanilla silk faille ribbon trimmed cocktail dress from the '50s and his gold lamé matelassé, cap sleeved gown from the '40s, as well as GALANOS' ivory douppioni silk empire gown with sculptural bell skirt and his witty white plastic bead, A-line mini dress — both vintage '60s. Also from this decade was a classic navy wool pea coat with hammered gold domed buttons and banded slashed pockets by YVES SAINT LAURENT. From American icon NORMAN NORELL, there was a perfect sleeveless chemise in flame linen, simply accented with self-covered buttons at either shoulder and squared godets at the hip. From NINA RICCI we spotted a taupe plaid silk pongee dress/jacket combo from the early '60s. The bolero jacket features short sleeves and rounded collar, while the dress has a fitted square bodice and double box pleat skirt. Simply gorgeous was DIOR's ivory chiffon knife pleated cocktail dress; the bodice has three horizontal white reptile skin bands. Gala evenings call for BILL BLASS' coupe de chenille sweeping A-line coat in black with satin gold lamé that employs brown silk thread in an abstract pattern, and features buttons in rhinestone-centered gilt metal. A beautiful '60s mini coat came from British designer JEAN MUIR. Fashioned in natural linen, it has a zipper closure, princess seaming, plus box pleat and half belt at center back. A black and crème print silk A-line cocktail dress by GEOFFREY BEENE is as au courant today as it was in the '60s. Also proving the

point that great design is timeless is a delicate '20s crème lace tea dress from BOUE SOEURS. The short sleeve chemise has a camisole under-slip of blush pink silk chiffon overlaid with crème net, while the bodice and skirt feature floating floral embroidered net panels. A pale aqua silk sash ties at a bow at the hip.

#### UPCOMING SHOWS

Manhattan Vintage  
Clothing Show  
Oct. 13-14, 2006

Doyle New York  
Couture, Textiles and Accessories  
Exhibition: Nov. 11-14, 2006  
Auction: Nov. 16 at 10:00 AM



# 2007 REGIONAL MARKET DATES

## SUMMER/TRANSITION

NEW YORK	OCT. 22-NOV. 2, 2007
ATLANTA	FEB. 1-5
CHICAGO	FEB. 3-6
DALLAS	JAN. 28-31
LOS ANGELES	JAN. 12-16

## FALL I

NEW YORK	JAN. 2-12 (HOLIDAY, JAN. 1)
ATLANTA	APRIL 12-16
CHICAGO	MAR. 24-27
DALLAS	MAR. 18-21
LOS ANGELES	MAR. 23-27

## FALL II/HOLIDAY

NEW YORK	JAN. 29-FEB.16 (FALL II ONLY)
ATLANTA	JUNE 7-11
CHICAGO	JUNE 1-4
DALLAS	JUNE 3-6
LOS ANGELES	JUNE 8-12

## RESORT

NEW YORK	JUNE 4-15
ATLANTA	AUG. 23-27
CHICAGO	AUG. 11-14
DALLAS	AUG. 19-22
LOS ANGELES	AUG. 10-14

## SPRING

NEW YORK	SEPT. 4-21 (TENTATIVE)
ATLANTA	OCT. 18-22
CHICAGO	OCT. 20-23
DALLAS	OCT. 14-17
LOS ANGELES	OCT. 26-30

IMPORTANT: NEW YORK HAS TWO ADDITIONAL MARKETS

HOLIDAY: MARCH 19-30 SPRING I: JULY 30-AUG. 10

## FUTURE FASHION WEEK DATES

2007

NEW YORK FEB. 2 - 9

LONDON FEB. 12 - 16

MILAN FEB. 17 - 24

PARIS FEB. 25 - MARCH 5

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